broadcasting which interalia would address the issue of entry of foreign holding in the broadcasting companies.

As far as print media is concerned, the entry of foreign print media in the country is regulated by a Cabinet Resolution of 1955 which prohibits :-

(i) Publication of foreign owned newspapers and periodicals in the country;

(ii) Publication of Indian editions of foreign newspapers/periodicals dealing mainly with news and current affairs;

The Governemt continues to be guided by this policy which has neither been changed nor rescinded.

(b) and (c). This Ministry has not permitted any private TV operator to uplink signals from Indian soil to foreign satellite.

(d) This Ministry is not aware of any such uplinking.

(e) to (g). Meeting held in September, 1996 was a part of the process of consultation being held with various political parties on the issues relating to Prasar Bharati and Broadcasting Law. A questionnaire was also sent to leaders of various political parties and only a few of them have responded so far, After taking these views into consideration, a Broadcasting Bill will soon be introduced in the Parliament.

[Translation]

Computer Reservation Services

2979. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Barauni has not so far been linked with Calcutta regarding computer reservation services; and

(b) if so, the time by which computer reservation services at Barauni are likely to be linked with the entire country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Barauni is connected with the main computer system of Delhi. There is no proposal at present to link it with any other system.

[English]

Zinc Trade Agreement

2980. SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindustan Zinc Limited have any trade agreements with France and two Australian Companies for mining; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) As part of Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL)'s longterm strategy to diversify into different fields of business, three Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed with leading foreign Parties, viz., BHP Minerals, Australia, Nuigini Mining Limited (NML), Australia, and BRGM, France/VMC, Vietnam, for the exploration and if found viable, exploitation of base and precious metals in India and abroad.

(b) The MoU with BHP Minerals is for grass-root exploration for Lead, Zinc, Copper and Gold and associated minerals in Rajasthan.

The MoU with NML is for exploration and if found viable, exploitation of identified gold prospects in India.

The MoU with BRGM (France) and VMC, now restructured as Vietnam Gem and Gold Corporation (VIGEGO), is for exploration and, if found viable, exploitation of Pac Lang Gold prospects in Vietnam.

[Translation]

Employment on Compassionate Ground

2981. DR. G.R. SARODE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employment on compassionate ground is provided in Railways;

(b) if so, the number of details of such employment provided in Bhusaval Division under Central Railway during the last three years;

(c) the number of such cases pending in Bhusaval Division; and

(d) the time by which these cases are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) The extant instructions require the Zonal Railways to make all out efforts to provide compassionate appointments to all eligible persons as early as possible within the guidelines laid down for the purpose. It is, however, difficult to fix any time limit for the appointments on compassionate grounds, as the same depends on several factors like availability of suitable vacancies, wards attaining majority etc.

[English]

Telephone Connections

2982. SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE: wiill the Minister of COMMINICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) list of telecom districts having more than 10,000 telephone connections with waiting list;